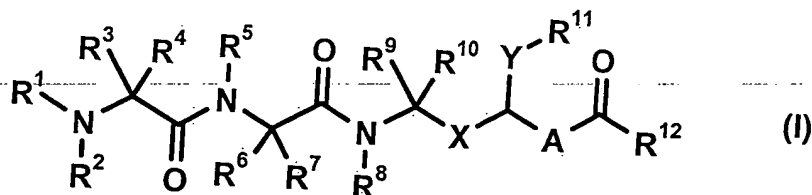


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claims 1-6. (cancelled)

Claim 7. (new) A compound of the general formula U-V-W, wherein U refers to the formula (I),



wherein

A is an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered heteroarylen ring;

X is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a group of the formula NR^{13} or $CR^{14}R^{15}$;

Y is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or a group of the formula NR^{16} ,

$R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}$ and R^{16} are independently of each other H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, heteroalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, alkylcycloalkyl, heteroalkylcycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl,

or two of $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}$ and R^{16} constitute part of a cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl ring system;

V is a linker and W is a polymer or a biomolecule.

Claim 8. (new) A compound of claim 7 where in the compound of the formula (I) is Tubulysin A.

Claim 9. (new) A compound of claim 7 wherein the polymer is a polyethylene glycol.

Claim 10. (new) A compound of claim 9 wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of more than 30 kDa.

Claim 11. (new) A compound of claim 7 wherein the biomolecule is an antibody.

Claim 12. (new) A method for treating a patient suffering cancer, comprising administering to the patient one or more compounds of claim 7.

Claim 13. (new) The method of claim 12 wherein the patient is identified as suffering from cancer and the one or more compounds are administered to the identified patient.